

SC Arts Commission
Board of Commissioners Meeting
1800 Gervais Street, Columbia, SC
December 13, 2005

Members present	Linda Stern, Harry Love, West Fraser, Carrie Brown, Bud Ferillo, Carolyn Govan, Noble Cooper
Members absent	Virginia Self
Staff present	Susie Surkamer, Rusty Sox
Observer	Susan Lenz Dingman
Call to order	Chairman Stern called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m.
Approval of Minutes	Dr. Cooper moved to approve the minutes of the September 28, 2005 meeting. Ms. Brown seconded and the motion was approved.
Chairman's Report	<p>Ms. Stern reported that she had spoken with Rep. Chip Limehouse at a function in Georgetown. She reminded the board that Rep. Limehouse is the chair of the Arts Commission's House Ways and Means budget subcommittee.</p> <p>Ms. Stern had also recently spoken with Governor Sanford about the agency's activities and initiatives.</p> <p>She also attended a retirement gathering honoring Helen Lupo, who is retiring from the Arts Commission at the end of December.</p>
Recognition	The board paused to honor and congratulate Helen Lupo on her retirement. The board also congratulated staff member Larry Dean on his graduation from the University of South Carolina.
Commissioners' Reports	<p>Mr. Love reported on his visit with the American Folk Life Center Board.</p> <p>Ms. Brown reported on the Mayor's Institute for Community Design, where she represented the SCAC board at a dinner in Greenville.</p>
Executive Director's Report	Ms. Surkamer pointed out the mid-year program update document provided in board members' packets. She also pointed out a packet of recent press clippings about the SCAC and some of its grant-funded activities.

Discussion
Motion

There was discussion of the agency's media outreach activities. Mr. Ferillo moved that the board chair appoint a committee of the board to work with agency staff on public relations and communications issues. Dr. Cooper seconded, and the motion was approved.

E.D. Report
Continued

Ms. Surkamer pointed out that the agency is in the process of advertising for a communications director position, an accounting position and an administrative assistant. Other personnel matters include:

- Marion Draine will retire at the end of January.
- Katie Fox has joined the staff as Arts in Education coordinator.
- Susan Leonard will retire in January, but remain on staff until June to finish some projects.
- Ken May is attending Spanish language training in Mexico.

Ms. Surkamer reported on several meetings with legislators that had taken place since the September board meeting, including meetings or conversations with Rep. Roland Smith (Aiken), Rep. Gloria Haskins and Rep. David Thomas (Greenville), Rep. Dan Cooper (Anderson), Rep. Gilda Cobb-Hunter (Orangeburg) and Rep. Jim Harrison (Richland). Rep. Harrison is the new co-chair of the House Arts Caucus. Ms. Surkamer has meetings scheduled with the other caucus co-chairs.

Ms. Surkamer has spoken with the Lt. Governor about an arts initiative involving the Council on Aging.

The Education Oversight Commission has been reviewing how funds for Gifted and Talented programs are being spent. The EOC is proposing to the legislature that a higher percentage of gifted and talented money be allocated to arts education programs. This will be an issue the arts community will follow in the legislature.

Ms. Surkamer reported on the possibility of requesting some one-time supplemental funds with next year's budget to help with the construction or renovation of arts facilities in the state.

Also:

- VSAarts funding to the SCAC for 2006 is \$22,500. Some of this money will be used to help fund a staff position for VSA activities.
- The SCAC will transfer the Southern Circuit Film Series to the Southern Arts Federation after this year.

- Ms. Surkamer attended a Wallace Foundation meeting of grantees in New York.
- Ken May and Folk and Traditional Arts Coordinator Craig Stinson are working with Southern Arts Federation to arrange an arts exchange program with Mexico.

Ms. Govan arrived at 10:50 a.m.

1st Quarter Financial Reports

Ms. Surkamer reviewed the financial statements.

Motion

Mr. Ferillo moved to approve the financial reports. Ms. Govan seconded, and the motion was approved.

Grant Items

Grants Director Clay Burnette arrived to distribute a list of grants awarded since July 1, 2005. He and Ms. Surkamer reviewed the list.

Cultural Tourism Grants

Mr. Burnette presented the panel recommendations in this category, including one pending award awaiting a clarification from the applicant. Ms. Surkamer noted the impressive response to this grant opportunity.

Mr. Ferillo served on the panel and commented on the panel process.

Discussion

There was discussion of the recommendations.

Motion

Ms. Govan moved to approve recommendations with the pending award upon receipt of acceptable information from the applicant. Ms. Brown seconded, and the motion was approved.

Fellowship Program

Ms. Surkamer briefed the board on the Fellowship program and some background leading to its current status. For 2007, there are three fellowship categories in which there was an insufficient number of applicants to make an award, based on criteria adopted by the board last year. Copies of letters from concerned artists were included in the board packets.

Ms. Surkamer presented the staff recommendation that the board not award fellowships in the three categories in question, and move ahead with evaluating the entire program – including how the SCAC encourages artists to apply – and report back to the board with recommendations at the March meeting.

Discussion	There was discussion about the current policy and how the SCAC promotes the program.
Motion	Mr. Fraser moved to re-open all of the 2007 Fellowship categories, plus the dance category that was not awarded in 2006, with the SCAC to develop a marketing plan and promote a new deadline. Mr. Ferillo seconded, and the motion was approved.
Participation Presentation	In the interest of time, the board decided to postpone the participation presentation to a future meeting.
Literary Arts Partnership	Sara June Goldstein arrived to introduce T.J. Frost, staff person for the Literary Arts Partnership. Ms. Frost updated the board on partnership activities and distributed some information. She also informed the board on the SCAC's involvement with the Poetry Out Loud Recitation Contest.
	Ms. Goldstein introduced Lindsey Moore, staff person for the Design Arts Partnership. Ms. Moore updated the board on the Mayor's Institute for Community design.
Other Business	Ms. Surkamer presented a request from Stone Academy to re-apply for an ABC Advancement grant.
Discussion	There was discussion about the request.
Motion	Ms. Govan moved to approve the request. Mr. Fraser seconded and the motion was approved.
Motion	Ms. Stern moved that the board go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter. Ms. Govan seconded and the motion was approved.
Executive Session	The board met in executive session from 1:15 – 1:45 p.m.
Leave Executive Session	Ms. Brown moved to end executive session. Ms. Govan seconded and the motion was approved. No votes were taken.
Adjourn	There was no other business. The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.